



Region 2 Headquarters
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804
Phone 406-542-5500

February 15, 2019

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed you will find for your review the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposal to enter into a cooperative habitat management agreement on its Blackfoot-Clearwater Wildlife Management Area (BCWMA). The proposed agreement between FWP and Two Creek Ranch (TCR) would generally exchange grazing or hay on 887 acres of primarily non-native pasture on the BCWMA, in exchange for implementation of a rest-rotation grazing system on 795 acres of TCR privately managed native grasslands that provide important elk winter forage. Public hunting access would be allowed on the private land involved in the proposed lease. The lease would be effective from early May 2019 to October 1, 2024.

The EA may also be obtained by mail from Region 2 FWP, 3201 Spurgin Rd., Missoula 59804; by phoning 406-542-5540; by emailing shrose@mt.gov; or by viewing FWP's Internet website <http://fwp.mt.gov> ("News," then "Recent Public Notices," beginning February 15). Comments may be made online on the EA webpage or may be directed by mail or email to the addresses above. Comments must be received by FWP no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 18, 2019.

As part of the decision-making process under the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), I expect to issue the Decision Notice for this EA very soon after the end of the comment period. The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission has the final decision-making authority for FWP land leases, and the Commission will be asked to render its decision on this proposal at its regularly scheduled April 25th meeting.

Sincerely,

Randy Arnold
Regional Supervisor

RA/sr